

CIVIL AIR PATROL/CONNECTICUT WING

# 399<sup>th</sup> COMPOSITE SQUADRON NEWS



**YANKEE HATTERS**

**FEBRUARY 2015**

## Cadet DiBlanda Takes Command of Danbury's Civil Air Patrol Cadets

*Major Peter Milano, Public Affairs/CT-042*

**C**adet Second Lieutenant Matthew DiBlanda, a resident of Waterbury, Connecticut, accepted command of Civil Air Patrol's 399th Composite Squadron cadets at the unit's Change of Command and Awards Ceremony held on December 16, 2014.

Cadet Commander DiBlanda joined Civil Air Patrol in May 2012. A friend asked him to join, and after attending a few meetings his interest was piqued. "I visited for a couple of meetings and knew that Civil Air Patrol was what I wanted to do." He initially joined the 143rd Composite Squadron in Waterbury, Connecticut but soon transferred to the 399th Composite Squadron in Danbury. "Since then, I've done so many activities and made so many friends through CAP that I couldn't possibly list them all," said DiBlanda. "Some of my favorites have been encampment, orienta-

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**Cadet Second Lieutenant Matthew DiBlanda accepts the squadron flag from Major Jim Vigar and Mr. Gary DiBlanda.** (Photo: Major Peter Milano)

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tion flights, earning all of my operations qualifications and competing regionally on a drill team.” DiBlanda’s orientation flights have included powered and non-powered flights and he noted “the experience of flying in a glider is breathtaking.”

The new cadet commander has held most positions on the cadet chain of command, from element leader to deputy cadet commander. “Having experience in all the different jobs has been one of the most important parts of climbing the chain of leadership for me. I have found that in order to lead effectively, it helps tremendously when you've been in the shoes of those whom you're trying to lead,” said DiBlanda. “My main goal for the squadron is to form an even closer knit family among all of our members. If you can't trust your teammates, the mission suffers.”

DiBlanda was promoted to cadet second lieutenant in October 2014 and received the General Billy Mitchell Award, the second milestone in the cadet program that marks completion of the leadership phase. Only 15% of Civil Air Patrol cadets obtain the award, making them eligible for advanced placement to the grade of airman first class (E-3) should they choose to enter the U.S. Air Force. Among DiBlanda’s achievements are mission qualifications which include ground team member level 3 (GTM3), urban direction finding (UDF), mission radio operator (MRO) and mission staff assistant (MSA). DiBlanda continues to enhance his mission ready skills through additional preparation, currently training as communications unit leader (CUL) and ground team member level 2 (GTM2).

DiBlanda’s progress from airman in the 143rd Composite Squadron to commander of the 399th Composite Squadron has been an exciting journey. “It goes to show how the CAP experience can be unique for everybody and mean different things for different people. I sincerely believe that Civil Air Patrol can change lives, and I'm thrilled to be such a large part of the squadron that's given so much to me,” noted DiBlanda.





## Chaplain's Corner

*Captain James Solomon  
Chaplain/CT-042*

**A**s your chaplain, I want to tell you how pleased I am with our new Character Development Instructor,

Ms. Christina Posca, who has done an outstanding job in picking up where I left off with our monthly Character Education Sessions! I have also recently asked myself, what's a chaplain for anyway? There may be many hats to wear in the position in which I serve you, but my favorites include counsel, care and prayer. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you simply need to talk. Meanwhile, with prayer in mind, I would like to share a prayer which I hope will bless you. You may have heard of "The Soldier's Prayer," written by an unknown confederate soldier during the Civil War:



**Chaplain,  
Captain James Solomon**  
(Photo: Major Peter Milano)

"I asked God for strength that I might achieve. I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey. I asked for health that I might do greater things. I was given infirmity that I might do better things. I asked for riches that I might be happy. I was given poverty that I might be wise. I asked for power that I might have the praise of men. I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things that I might enjoy life. I was given life that I might enjoy all things. I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all men, most richly blessed."

**Serving with you.**

For more information about Civil Air Patrol's Chaplain Program visit



[CAP Chaplain Corps](#)

For Squadron Pictures Visit  
[Squadron Picasa Web Albums](#)

And on Facebook

[399th Danbury Composite Squadron](#)



## 24 Hour Pack Contents



Major Jim Vigar  
Commander/CT-042



Source - CAP Knowledgebase

**T**he 24 hour pack is what you carry while searching. As its name infers, in case of an emergency, this equipment will help you survive in the wilderness for 24 hours. In addition, your 24 hour pack is part of your uniform -- when the public sees you on a mission, they will probably see you wearing your field gear. Because of this, your 24 hour pack must present a professional uniform appearance. Though packs do not need to be identical, it is advantageous for unit members to have similar 24-hour packs.

The gear list below is the minimum required equipment. Items required of trainees are marked with a "T." You may carry additional equipment subject to team leader approval and your ability to secure and carry it - remember, you may have to walk a long way carrying it all.



### I. On your person:

- a) Complete BDU uniform with camouflage BDU cap. The BDU cap may be replaced by a hard hat or bright colored cap based on mission needs. <sup>(T)</sup>
- b) Notepad and pencil <sup>(T)</sup>
- c) All CAP Identification, including 101 card, 76 card, First Aid card, etc. <sup>(T)</sup>
- d) Watch <sup>(T)</sup>
- e) Handkerchief or tissues
- f) Vest, reflective, orange <sup>(T)</sup>
- g) Comb or brush (optional, carry if needed) <sup>(T)</sup>
- h) Ground Team Member's Handbook
- i) Signal Mirror
- j) Whistle
- k) Pocket or utility-type knife, multipurpose with can opener. Swiss Army knives, Leatherman, or Gerber Tools are recommended. <sup>(T)</sup>

### II. Day pack (preferably red or orange), webbed gear, or other SAR/Survival Vest <sup>(T)</sup> containing:

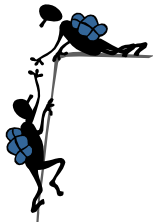
- a) **First Aid Kit**, stored in zip-lock bag or other waterproof container, recommended that it consists of the following:
  - (1) 2 Antiseptic cleansing pads

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4, 24 Hour Pack Contents)

- (2) Antiseptic ointment
- (3) 6 Band-Aids, various sizes
- (4) Moleskin, 2" X 4"
- (5) Roller bandage
- (6) 2 Safety pins, large
- (7) 4 gauze pads
- (8) 1 Triangular Bandage
- (9) Tape, first aid
- (10) Any personal medication (team leader should know what you have and where you carry it). <sup>(T)</sup>
- (11) Rubber surgical gloves.  
(two pair minimum)



- b) **Survival Kit**, stored in zip-lock bag or other waterproof container, consisting of:
  - (1) Duct tape, 5-10 feet (does not need to be a whole roll. May be wrapped around a stick.
  - (2) Leaf bag, large.
  - (3) 12 wooden, waterproof matches <sup>(T)</sup>
  - (4) Match container, waterproof, with striking surface.
  - (5) 1 Chemical Light Stick, Green <sup>(T)</sup>
  - (6) 50' of nylon line.  
(paracord or similar line)

- c) **SAR Equipment** stored in zip-lock bags, consisting of:
  - (1) Change of socks <sup>(T)</sup>
  - (2) Flagging Tape, 1 roll
  - (3) Flashlight (with red or blue lens), with spare bulb and batteries
  - (4) Spare flashlight (penlight will do) <sup>(T)</sup>
  - (5) Insect repellent
  - (6) Lip balm, with sunscreen.
  - (7) Sunscreen lotion
  - (8) Tissue Paper <sup>(T)</sup>
  - (9) Work Gloves, leather <sup>(T)</sup>
  - (10) Interviewing Form (s), blank
  - (11) 4 Moist Towelettes, clean, in foil wrapper
  - (12) Change for phone calls, calling card, or cellular phone <sup>(T)</sup> to call mission base

d) **2 meals** <sup>(T)</sup>

e) **Shelter Material**, preferably 8' X 10' (spare military poncho meets the need)

f) **Coat** for appropriate climate, if necessary (in pack if not wearing it) <sup>(T)</sup>

g) **Poncho** <sup>(T)</sup>

h) **Canteen(s)** to carry 2 quarts of water (Some wings require their personnel to

(Continued on page 6)





(Continued from page 5, 24 Hour Pack Contents)

have at least one one-quart canteen on a belt while the other is stored in the field pack. At least one quart of water must be carried by all personnel) <sup>(T)</sup>

i) Compass Pouch, containing compass, lensatic or orienteering (orienteering preferred). Compass should have a “glow in the dark” dial.

j) **Leader’s Equipment** -- only required of Ground Team Leaders

- (1) Protractor -- for map work.
- (2) Map Case (Large zip-loc bags can be used if necessary)
- (3) Pencil, with eraser (plus sharpener if not a mechanical pencil)
- (4) Alcohol Pens, fine tip, at least 2 colors (neither the color of your colored flashlight lens)
- (5) Some way to erase alcohol pens marks on the map case, such as alcohol swabs or a special alcohol pen eraser.
- (6) A straightedge ruler, at least 6” long (Some protractors may have a ruler as well).
- (7) Ground Team Leader Handbook

For your equipment to be effective, you must ensure it is clean and serviceable. Occasionally you will have to replace items such as medicine, batteries or food because it has passed its expiration date.

## SCHEDULE & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### Cadet Competition

March 28, 2015 (tentative)  
(location to be determined)

### Cadet Orientation Flights

April 11, 2015  
Danbury

### Northeast Region & Pennsylvania Wing Joint Conference

May 15-17, 2015  
Gettysburg, PA  
(registration opens March 1)

### Bridgewater Country Fair

August 21-23, 2015  
Bridgewater, CT  
(Mandatory for 399th Members)

### National Conference

August 27-29  
Orlando, FL  
(Registration opens mid April)

### Howard E. Palmer Cadet Ball

September 12, 2015  
U.S. Coast Guard Academy



## First Air/CPR Training

First Aid and CPR Training is available to all members of Connecticut Wing. If you want to schedule training please contact Major Marlene Welch at

[medictroll27@gmail.com](mailto:medictroll27@gmail.com)



## Cold or Low - Look Out Below



*Captain Johnny Burke*  
*Stan/Eval Officer/CT-042*

**W**hen flying into very cold air or very low pressure, the aircraft will be lower than the altimeter indicates.

Low pressure altimeter error is easy to understand. Air pressure decreases with altitude, so if you fly from a high pressure area into a low pressure area, while maintaining indicated altitude, the aircraft will descend.

Flying into very cold air, while maintaining indicated altitude, will also cause the aircraft to descend, but the reason is not quite as obvious.

The altimeter is calibrated to read altitude based on rate of change in air pressure (approximately one inch of pressure change per 1000 feet of altitude). So, under normal conditions, if you took off from a sea level airport, and barely cleared a 1000 foot obstacle, the altimeter would sense a one inch pressure change, and indicate 1000 feet of altitude.

The problem with very cold air is the molecules are packed closer together. The pressure change from that sea level airport to the top of the 1000 foot obstacle, when it is surrounded by very cold air, will be more than one inch. If the pressure change from the sea level airport to the top of the 1000 foot obstacle is 1.1 inches, the altimeter will read 1100 feet at the top of the obstacle. If you had maintained indicated altitude of 1000 feet, while flying into this colder air, you would be 100 feet below the obstacle.

The ICAO Cold Temperature Error Correction Table can be found in the Airman's Information Manual.

**TBL 7-2-3**  
**ICAO Cold Temperature Error Table**  
**Height Above Airport in Feet**

Reported Temp °C		200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1500	2000	3000	4000	5000
	+10	10	10	10	10	20	20	20	20	20	30	40	60	80	90
	0	20	20	30	30	40	40	50	50	60	90	120	170	230	280
	-10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	150	200	290	390	490
	-20	30	50	60	70	90	100	120	130	140	210	280	420	570	710
	-30	40	60	80	100	120	140	150	170	190	280	380	570	760	950
	-40	50	80	100	120	150	170	190	220	240	360	480	720	970	1210
	-50	60	90	120	150	180	210	240	270	300	450	590	890	1190	1500

### EXAMPLE

Temperature -10 degrees Celsius, and the aircraft altitude is 1,000 feet above the airport elevation. The chart shows that the reported current altimeter setting may place the aircraft as much as 100 feet below the altitude indicated by the altimeter.

(source: [www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications))



## Heads Up! for February 2015



*Bob Kelly  
EPA Meteorologist*

Get any pair of optics you have and spend some time watching Jupiter this month. Jupiter rises in the east

very bright right after sunset. Track its four brightest moons in binoculars or pump up the power in a telescope to stalk the jumbo planet as it gets higher in the sky for those moments of steady skies when you just know there are more details on Jupiter than belts, moons and a pretty large reddish spot (although they are wonderful all by themselves).

Comet Lovejoy did need us to use binoculars to find it. The lack of bright stars nearby to guide us made the hunt a bit harder, but the fuzzy blue object was readily identifiable amidst the pinpoint, mostly colorless stars. Once we found the comet, the Pleiades and Hyades star clusters provided a good frame for finding Lovejoy again. It's great to have a comet somewhere other than the typical low-in-the-sky-right-after-sunset type. Try to find Lovejoy after the Moon leaves the evening sky as it travels north. You'll still need binoculars to find it as Lovejoy dims and shrinks this month as it races back out of the inner solar system. Thanks to interactions with the planets, it has a new orbit; and it's shorter, only taking 8,000 years to orbit the Sun.

Don't miss out on the brighter planets cavorting low in the southwest after sunset! Super-bright Venus attracts attention, setting more than two hours after sunset. It's climbing out of the twilight to meet Mars, passing within a finger-width from the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mars is usually an easy object to see without optical aid, but can you follow it as twilight interferes? Get those binoculars out to compare much fainter Mars next to blinding Venus. Does Mars still look reddish in the glare of Venus or are they too deep in the glare of twilight for the color difference to be clear? They are so close on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> you'll need a telescope to separate them. In a telescope, Venus looks like a mostly round ball, looking three times larger than Mars in a telescope. The Moon came by for a group hug on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Uranus gets run over by the crescent Moon on the 21<sup>st</sup>, but witnesses will be hard to come by as the astronomical ac-

*(Continued on page 9)*

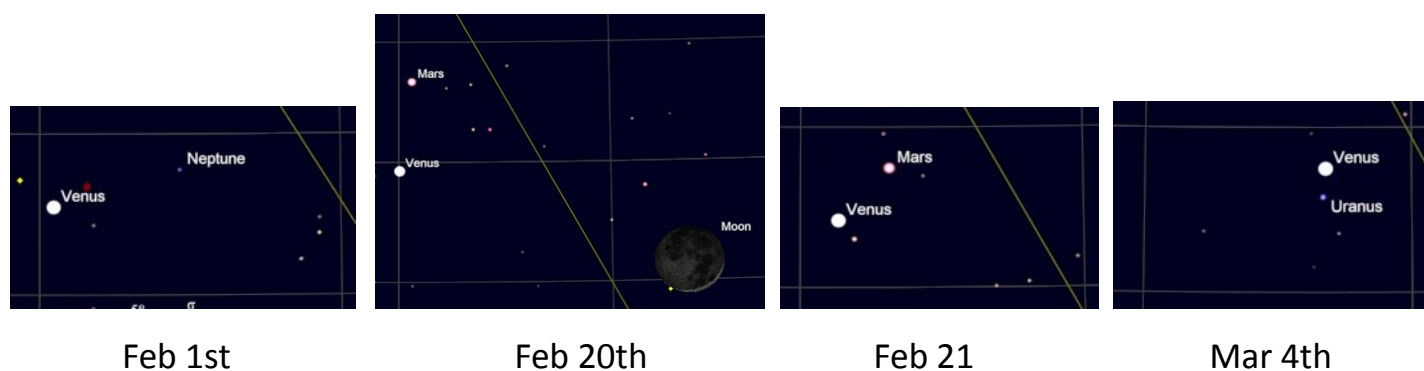




*(Continued from page 8, Heads Up! for February 2015 )*

cident happens just after sunset and will be hard to see in the bright twilight, even with a telescope.

Neptune will be close to Venus around February 1<sup>st</sup>, but we'll have trouble picking out faint Neptune so low in the sky and near incredibly bright Venus. Uranus will pass Venus on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Uranus is brighter than Neptune, but you'll still need at least a small telescope to view that conjunction. Mars and Uranus get close on March 11<sup>th</sup>, but we're getting ahead of ourselves! (But it's a good reason to track Mars as it slowly is swallowed up by the twilight – to compare the sizes of reddish Mars and bluish Uranus when they come together.)



#### **Our line-up of line-ups**

All of these charts are on the same scale, so each white square on each chart is two degrees across azimuth and one degree down in altitude

In the morning sky, Saturn gets as high as it gets just before sunrise, making an early morning rise worth it. Saturn's rings are tilted wide open, watch for Saturn's brighter moon - Titan is often visible even in a small telescope.

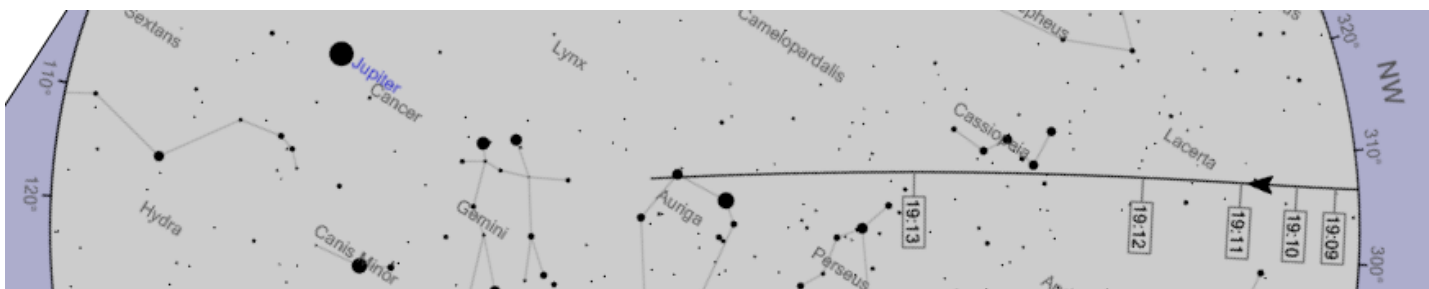
The new Moon on the 18th is the second closest perigee of our Moon for the year, but if you can't see it, can it be a 'supermoon'? Just wait for the September 28th full moon, which will be the largest of the year and eclipsed in the Earth's shadow. The next full Moon, on March 5th, is the furthest away full Moon of the year. I guess we could call it 'mini-moon'?

*(Continued on page 10)*



(Continued from page 9, Heads Up! for February 2015)

The International Space Station makes bright passes during and just after evening twilight from the 3rd through the 24th. Here's a sky map of the overflight on the 20th – times are EST:



For more sky news visit Bob's blog

[bkellysky.wordpress.com](http://bkellysky.wordpress.com)



## Aircraft Ground Handling Information

*Captain John Freeman  
Operations Officer/CT-042*

### Attention Aircrew

Prior to your next flight please take an opportunity to review the laminated ground handling card that has been placed in our aircraft. This card details the personnel requirements necessary for moving Civil Air Patrol aircraft as required by Northeast Region. Review of this information is mandatory for all aircrew operating Civil Air Patrol aircraft in Northeast Region.

### CAP National

Read General Joe Vazquez's  
"National Commander's Update" online  
[capmembers.com/national\\_commanders\\_update](http://capmembers.com/national_commanders_update)

## 399<sup>th</sup> Staff

Commander	Major James Vigar
Advisor to Commander	Lt. Col. Peter Sanderson
Chaplain	Captain James Solomon
Administration	2d Lt. Christina Posca
Aerospace Education	Capt. Ralph Langham
Communications	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeffrey Jenkins
Deputy Commander	Capt. Joseph Bisnov
Deputy Cmdr. Cadets	Capt. Greg Sweeney
Drug Demand Reduction	2d Lt. Andrew Luckey
Emergency Services	Capt. Greg Sweeney
Finance	Capt. Joseph Bisnov
Maintenance/Operations	Capt. John Freeman
Professional Development	Major Glen Dains
Public Affairs/Editor	Major Peter Milano
Recruiting/Retention	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Mary Ellen Trohalis
Safety	Capt. James McLaughlin
Supply Officer	2d Lt. Gabriel Florio
Standardization/Eval	Capt. Johnny Burke
Transportation	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeffrey Jenkins





**2015 Civil Air Patrol  
Northeast Region &  
Pennsylvania Wing  
Joint Conference & Awards Banquet  
Friday, May 15 – Sunday, May 17, 2015  
Gettysburg, PA**

**Conference Events**

National and Regional level training and sessions  
Region and Wing Awards & Recognition  
Change of Command - PA Wing Commander

**Distinguished Guests**

- \* Major General Joseph Vasquez  
CAP National Commander
- \* Brigadier General Larry Myrick  
CAP National Vice Commander
- \* Colonel Dan Leclair  
NER Commander
- \* Colonel Mary Feik  
\* Vanguard
- \* National and Regional staff specialists

**Pre conference Training**

*Off-site location: Ft Indiantown Gap:*

- \* 2-day Senior Inspector General (IG) Course
- \* 2-day Aerospace Education (AE) Seminar

**- Registration opens March 1 -**

Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center and  
the Aspire Hotel Suites, Gettysburg, PA.



**FEBRUARY 2015 CALENDAR**

2/03	Squadron Meeting	BDUs	399th HQ	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
2/10	Squadron Meeting	PTs	399th HQ	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
2/17	Squadron Meeting	Blues	399th HQ	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
2/24	Squadron Meeting	BDUs	399th HQ	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**399<sup>th</sup> Contact Information**

Civil Air Patrol  
399<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron  
21 Miry Brook Road  
Danbury, CT 06810



**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/399DanburyCAP>

**Website:** <http://399cap.org/> **E-mail:** [pao@399cap.org](mailto:pao@399cap.org)

**Submission Guidelines**

Send submissions in Microsoft Word format or in the body of your email.

Edit copy according to Associated Press Style.

Photos should be sent as attachments in JPG format and must meet uniform compliance.

Identify all persons in photo's and include credits.

**Deadline for the March 2015 issue is 28 February**

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 60,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs about 85 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 70 lives annually. Its unpaid professionals also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 25,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet programs. Performing missions for America for over 73 years, CAP will receive the Congressional Gold Medal in 2015 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans.

[www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com) [www.capvolunteernow.com](http://www.capvolunteernow.com) [www.capgoldmedal.com](http://www.capgoldmedal.com)

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